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reader and not for technical scholars, whether in history or international law. It assembles either the full text or summaries of the important documents and provides explanatory comments on the same. The historical part of the work is accurate as far as it goes.

**THE REBIRTH OF KOREA.** By *Hugh Heung-Wo-Cynn*. The Abingdon Press, New York and Cincinnati. Pp. 222, with appendices. \$1.50.

The author is a Korean graduate of the University of Southern California, now principal of one of the Methodist schools in Seoul. He sets forth the "patriotic" side of the controversy with Japan, and gives a clear account of the special perils that Christian missions and missionaries have had to face. The book is one of the most moving records of assertion of right by a conquered people that modern history can furnish. Told in other ways corroborative of this narrative and brought to the attention of the Federal Council of Churches of the United States, the general attack has had its share in forcing reforms in government from the Tokio government. Officialdom did not dare to let the public opinion of the world center disapprovingly any longer upon Korean effort to Japonify a more ancient people. The situation was fast becoming an international scandal owing to practices described in this book. Something had to give way. New Korea is in civilian governors' hands; and nominally, at least, the effort to make Japanese out of Koreans by use of repression has ceased. If this Korean educator is still somewhat skeptical about the sincerity of the pledges, it is not surprising in view of what he has seen and suffered.

**AN IRISHMAN LOOKS AT HIS WORLD.** By *George A. Birmingham*. George A. Doran, New York City. Pp. 307.

As the author of clever fiction about Ireland, this cleric of the Protestant persuasion has given delight to a large circle of American readers. In this book he drops his pen-name and settles down to a serious discussion of Irish politics, religion, culture, education, social stratification, and future history. He distributes his condemnation without fear or favor; hence it is one of the best books on the island and its problems that is available for information of the man who cannot go to Dublin, Cork, and Belfast and see for himself how intricate the problem is. No solution, answer, or scheme is given by the author when he comes to sum up. Indeed, he hints that constitutions and politics, revolutions, constructions, and reconstructions matter very much less than the world thinks they do. He would have the Irish people concentrate more on a form of education that makes men, a process that goes on continuously from the cradle to the grave. In short, he is a person who stresses character-building more than State carpentry. But he writes acutely, wittily, and discursively about matters that other folks usually grow solemn in debating; hence the charm of the book.

**"BARBAROUS" SOVIET RUSSIA.** By *Isaac McBride*. Thomas Seltzer, New York City. Pp. 155, with valuable appendices giving the text of documents of state. \$2.50 net.

This is a friendly report on conditions seen with his own eyes by an American journalist, and also is valuable for its reports of interviews with Lenin, Trotsky, Zinoviev, and Gorky. Like all other books on the subject, it has to be read with the personal equation in mind and the political and economic preferences of the author kept in view. To write dispassionately and objectively about Russia and its revolution seems to be beyond the power of any non-Russian at the present time. Keeping this fact in mind, the book has its merits; and especially is this so of its appendices. They give the text of papers which can be analyzed in the light of the world's past political experience and form a register of new ideas and ideals in government which have come to stay and with which the world has to reckon. Mr. McBride does not deny that Soviet Russia has both seemed and been "barbarous" on occasions, and he is not a naïve thinker who expects a revolution to be a rose-water affair. On the other hand, he shows that in many of its policies the Lenin gov-

ernment is far ahead of western Europe in providing for education and recreation for the masses, and that much that has been done in the way of use of force has been compelled by the tactics of enemies who hate the social aims the Russians are fighting for.

**OUR GREAT WAR AND THE GREAT WAR OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS.** By *Gilbert Murray*. Thomas Seltzer, New York City. Pp. 85.

This lecture by the Regius Professor of Greek in the University of Oxford is a study of the criticism passed on the war party at Athens by their contemporaries. Do his best to be icily, coldly critical, nothing that this humanist might write at such a time on such a theme could lack sidelights on the war through which he has passed and about which he has written so much more sanely than most of his countrymen, just because he has had an historical perspective and knows the past as well as the present of the race. For he is of the school of writers on history and literature who use the constructive imagination, but who also know that they cannot imagine effectively without the use of their own experiences. He has no patience, as he says in this book, with those savants who suppose that man can attain truth "by some sure mechanical process without ever committing himself to the fallible engine of his own personality." Consequently he proceeds to show how the personal equation shaped the judgments of historians, Greek and modern, upon great figures in the Peloponnesian war; Cleon, for instance. He was a "blood-thirsty sans-culotte" to Passow; a pure demagogue to Mitford; a much-abused radical to Grote, and is now rated as a leader in a great social and economic movement by Ferrero and Zimmern, who write all history from the economic, determinist standpoint. As for Professor Murray, he is content with Thucydides' judgment, namely, that Cleon was "the most violent of the citizens and at that time most persuasive to the multitude."

The implication of this line of argument by the Oxford classicist is that most of the judgments of men upon men have to be discounted in the light of the time in which they lived, the social caste to which they belonged, the interests which suffered or gained by the conduct of the men they condemn or praise. Parties and persons in ancient Athens and Sparta when their great war came exhibited precisely the same lines of class cleavage, pacificism, sympathy with their state's foes, that we have seen. There was a Peace-by-Negotiation party led by Nicias and a Knock-Out-Blow party led by Cleon. Upon this dispute and its consequences Professor Murray comments: "Providence, unusually indulgent, vouchsafed to both parties the opportunity of proving they were right."

In few books of the hour dealing with "the war" and with war in general is there crowded into so few pages so much comment that provokes thought, and that not always of a winsome or soporific kind. It is refreshing reading after the innumerable tomes now appearing dealing with war finance, war economics, reparations, settlement of debts, and emphasis on the material conditions of a wracked world. You are brought up face to face with some of those "constants" of humanity which Moses, Jesus, and Kant knew in their day, but which nineteenth century man, with his adoration of science and wealth, overlooked. Humanity is now paying the price of this bowing down to idols.

**TOUCH AND GO.** By *D. H. Lawrence*. Thomas Seltzer, New York City. Pp. 103. \$1.25.

A play written for the People's Theater series by an author whose reputation as poet and as a story-writer has given him considerable "vogue" in "advanced" British and American literary circles. The play has to do with conditions in a British colliery town and the clash between capital and labor. The author is deft in dialogue, has considerable skill in creating "characters," and he preaches a theory of social relations which indicates that he is not a lover of the arbitrary authority and brutality of the labor leaders any more than he is of the craft and autocracy of the capitalists. He senses the tragedy as well as the disaster of the economic war.